



# I-10 UPDATE

Sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation - El Paso District - December 2000/Volume 1

## Project Milestones

### Summer 2000

- Project initiation and data collection
- Identification of project purpose and need and goals and objectives
- Working Group Meeting #1

### Fall 2000

- Initial Public Meetings (Oct. 3rd & 4th)
- Identify initial strategies

### Winter 2000

- Develop and screen initial strategies
- Identify reduced number of conceptual strategies
- Working Group Meeting #2

### Spring 2001

- Refine conceptual strategies
- Identify environmental and engineering constraints
- Develop traffic forecasts and planning level cost estimates
- Working Group Meeting #3

### Summer 2001

- Evaluate conceptual strategies
- Identify recommended strategy

### Fall 2001

- Working Group Meeting #4
- Present results at Final Public Meetings

Finalize technical documentation

## How Can You Get Info on This Project?

- Check out the website: [www.dot.state.tx.us/mis/mis.htm](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/mis/mis.htm)
- Come to the public meetings
- Contact TxDOT project staff
- Reading this and future project newsletters

## The I-10 East Study Begins



*Transit, in addition to other transportation modes, will be considered in addressing study area congestion.*

The TxDOT El Paso District has initiated the 22-mile I-10 East Corridor Study from west of US 54 to FM 1110 near Clint. The study area also includes eastern portions of SH 20 (Alameda Avenue) and FM 76 (North Loop Road).

The I-10 East Corridor Study is the second El Paso I-10 corridor study. The I-10 West Corridor Major Investment Study (MIS), extending from the New Mexico state line to just east of US 54, was completed

in December 1999. The I-10 East Corridor Study, initiated in May 2000 and scheduled for completion in the fall of 2001, will complete the study of I-10 through El Paso.

Similar to the I-10 West Study, the I-10 East Corridor Study will determine the long- and short-term transportation needs of the Corridor and identify recommended strategies to meet those needs. The study will consider various modes in the development of solutions, including highways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian, and rail modes. Attention will also be given to freight-oriented solutions.



*I-10 looking at the I-110/US 54 Interchange from the Reynolds St. Bridge.*

This study will consider transportation needs through 2020. When identifying these transportation needs, a variety of factors are taken into consideration. Not only are the operational characteristics of the roadways considered, but environmental, social, and community interests weigh also heavily in determining the most effective transportation strategy.

Para obtener una copia de este boletín en Español comuníquese con Jessica Jaquez de la compañía Technology & Communications Gateway, Inc. (915/532-1171).

# Study Purpose and Need

The purpose of the I-10 East Corridor Study is to address problems and needs identified by TxDOT, other Working Group Members, and members of the public.

Already El Paso's most heavily traveled roadway, much of I-10 operates at capacity. Existing routes parallel to I-10 East are not good candidates for significant congestion relief and there is limited space for a new route location. In addition, international trade & freight movement are increasing and there is currently no alternate through route for I-10 trucks. Access to I-10 is difficult due to congested interchanges, particularly at Zaragoza Road and Lee Trevino Drive.

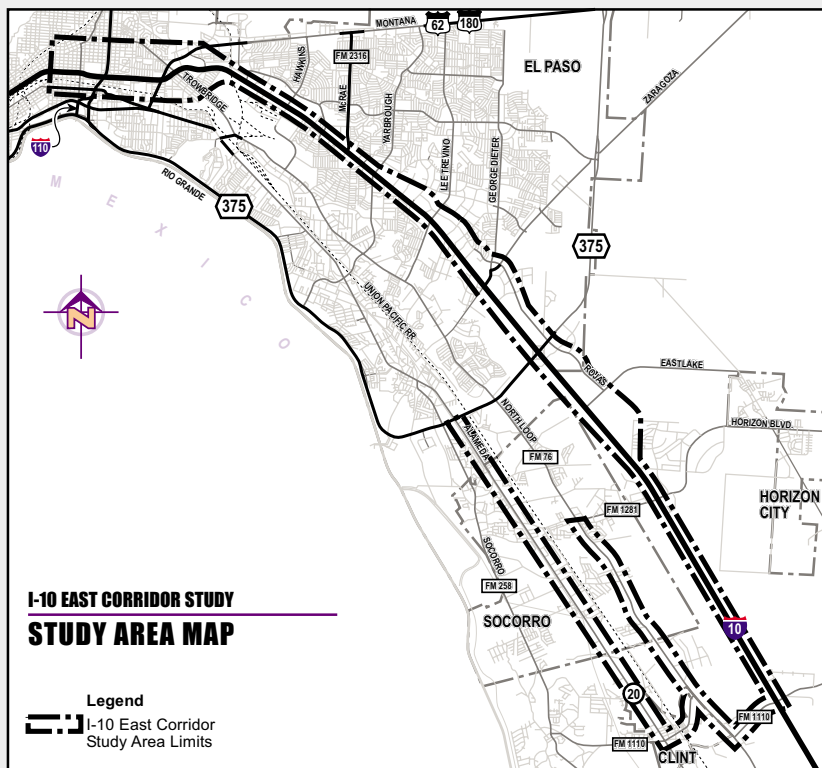


*Traffic backs up on the eastbound exit ramp to Lee Trevino.*

I-10 capacity will be further constrained in future years. Population growth is forecasted to be 108% in the East Area and 88% in the Lower Valley Area between 1990 & 2025 and future development is expected out to, along, and beyond LP 375 by 2025.

An additional concern is that El Paso is currently in non attainment with federal air quality standards.

Along SH 20 (Alameda Avenue), FM 76 (North Loop Road), and FM 1110, current congestion levels are not critical but will be evaluated for future conditions because the study sections have not been studied previously.



## Study Area

I-10 is a major east-west freeway through El Paso that serves a significant level of local, regional, and interregional traffic. The I-10 East Corridor study area limits extend along I-10 from Piedras Street just west of US 54 to FM 1110 at Clint. The corridor length is approximately 22 miles. The study area also includes SH 20 (Alameda Avenue) from Loop 375 to FM 1110 and FM 76 (North Loop Road) from FM 1281 (Horizon Boulevard) to FM 1110. The two FM 1110 sections between Alameda Avenue and North Loop Road and between North Loop Road and I-10 are also included.

Strategies will be focused along I-10 East. Several other key arterials also serve east El Paso's transportation needs. Studies of these other routes have been completed since 1987. These include:

- FM 76 (North Loop Road) Feasibility Study - Completed July 1987
- US 62/180 (Montana Avenue) Feasibility Study - Completed May 1995
- Border Highway Extension Feasibility Study - Completed February 1997
- SH 20 (Alameda Avenue) Feasibility Study - Completed August 1998
- Bridge of the Americas Ramp Connections - Completed April 2000

The above study recommendations are still being implemented. The I-10 East Corridor Study will complement and complete the long-range study of the major east side arterials.

Visit the study web page at  
<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/mis/mis.html>

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# Initial Public Meetings Held

## Public encouraged to comment on the corridor's transportation problems and needs.

TxDOT hosted an open house on October 3rd and 4th, 2000, to inform the public about the I-10 East Corridor Study. These meetings were held from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Ysleta Cultural Arts Center and the Del Valley High School respectively. TxDOT kicked off this first round of public meetings by presenting the study process and soliciting public comments. These meetings were successful with a total of approximately 75 attendees.

The goal of these meetings was to inform local citizens of the study process, and solicit comments on corridor problems and needs, constraints, and possible solutions.

Displays were provided that discussed the study process, current corridor problems, study goals and objectives, initial strategies, and methods to provide feedback. Some of the initial strategies included increased transit, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, ramp adjustments, and major interchange improvements. A popular aerial photograph display solicited comments on particular problem areas in the study area.

Comments included:

- Concern with traffic back-ups and high percentage of trucks at Horizon Blvd.;
- Request to consider direct connections at Lee Trevino;
- Need for additional transit circulation in Clint;
- Congestion at George Dieter/Zaragoza/I-10;
- Consider truck-only access to/from distribution centers between Loop 375 and Zaragoza;
- Problems with southbound US 54 connection to eastbound I-10; and,
- Look at turning lanes - radii too tight for trucks.

To help address El Paso's transportation issues, members of the public can get involved by attending the public meetings, sending in the comment sheet in this newsletter, or visiting our website. TxDOT wants your participation!



*TxDOT Project Manager Judy Ramsey discusses the project with a citizen.*

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## Working Group Activities

Successful transportation problem-solving includes planning and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, technical disciplines, and the public. The working group consists of technical, private, and agency stakeholders. Their role is to provide oversight to the study process and recommendations. The Working Group provides valuable feedback to the team developing the strategies at key project milestones. The Working Group includes 48 representatives from the following agencies:

El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization	City of El Paso
Sun Metro	Town of Horizon City
Instituto Municipal de Investigacion y Planeacion	City of Socorro
El Paso Police Department	Socorro Police Department
Clint Police Department	El Paso County
Housing Authority of El Paso	Department of Public Safety
State Historic Preservation Office	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Federal Highway Administration	Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	El Paso Bicycle Club
International Boundary & Water Commission	El Paso Community College
El Paso County Historical Commission	Herman Miles Trucking, Inc.
El Paso County Historical Society	Texas Motor Transportation Assn.
Rio Grande Council of Governments	El Paso Fire Department

The first I-10 East Working Group meeting took place on June 26, 2000, at TxDOT El Paso District Headquarters. The purpose of this first meeting was to introduce the project and project team, discuss and refine the study area, identify the study purpose and need, and establish goals and objectives. The overall corridor study process was outlined, possible initial strategies were identified, and the next step in the process--screening of the initial alternatives--was described. The Working Group also reviewed the Public Involvement Process.



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**Please help us improve transportation in your community. We want to hear from you. Comments and questions can be addressed to Texas Department of Transportation project staff:**

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(Advance Transportation Planning Administrator)

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AICP (District Transportation Planner)**

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Send comments by mail to: Judy Ramsey

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Visit the study web page at

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## Comments

*Clip and send your comments*

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